

Palm Sunday Order of Worship April 5th, 2020
Stone House Presbyterian Church

Welcome

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Prayer of Confession:

Eggs and Ashes Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill

<https://www.ionabooks.com/eggs-and-ashes.html>

Prayers of the People and Blessing:

Jill Duffield at Presbyterian Outlook

<https://pres-outlook.org/2020/03/order-of-service-palm-passion-sunday-april-5-2020/>

Call to Worship

One: Jesus is coming

ALL: SHOUT HOSANNA!

One: He's riding on a donkey

ALL: SHOUT HOSANNA!

One: Open the gates

ALL: SHOUT HOSANNA!

One: Open the ancient doors

ALL: SHOUT HOSANNA!

One: Don't be afraid

ALL: SHOUT HOSANNA!

One: Wave the branches

ALL: SHOUT HOSANNA!

One: Spread out your coats

ALL: SHOUT HOSANNA!

One: Peace in heaven

ALL: SHOUT HOSANNA!

One: Glory in highest heaven

ALL: SHOUT HOSANNA!

Opening Prayer

*Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts
-Psalm 24:3-4*

O Living God,
age after age, the children of dust
make their way to holy places to seek you,
yet you are closer than our hands or feet.

In temples and in churches
people make sacrifices and offerings,
but what you seek is
the love and well-being of your children.

Your Word promises
that those whose hands are clean
and whose hearts are pure
can climb the heavenly hill;
but who are we to do that?

On our journey through life
our hearts and our hands
have become stained and dirtied.

We come to you this day,
seeking to be cleansed and forgiven,
so we can meet you and know you and praise you.

Prayer of Confession

When we have stretched out our hands
in greed, lust,
or love of money,
LORD, CLEANSE US BY YOUR MERCY.

When our hearts have been sullied

by pride or resentment,
LORD, CLEANSE US BY YOUR MERCY.

When we have turned aside from your Way,
to follow the wealthy and powerful of the world,
LORD, CLEANSE US BY YOUR MERCY.

When we have worshiped idols other than you,
Or followed spirits other than your Holy and loving Spirit,
LORD, CLEANSE US BY YOUR MERCY.

Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

(Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Lord,
you forgive the sins of all who return to you,
you cleanse our hearts,
and welcome us to walk by your side.

Give us new strength
to follow you on your way
so that we may ascend the hill of the Lord
and stand on holy ground,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
AMEN.

Children's Message: Jesus Visits Jerusalem

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find

tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

*“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”*

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Meditation

Reflection Questions:

1. If someone asked you, “Who is Jesus of Nazareth?” what would you say back?
2. Is there a song of praise that brings you joy and awe?

Prayers of the People

(Sharing Prayer Requests)

Lord, your word sustains the weary. You bind up the brokenhearted and bring good news to the poor. As you enter into

the chaos of Jerusalem, we trust you come to us in whatever turmoil we are experiencing. Even as some of us shout our praises, others among us cannot even murmur a word of hope.

You see us all, lined up by the road, isolated in our homes, incarcerated or incapacitated, worried about our loved ones and those who are ill, exhausted from caring for the sick and laboring at essential work, and you are moved with compassion. You come to Jerusalem, getting ever closer to the cross, pouring yourself out in order to bring forgiveness, reconciliation and salvation.

We cast everything before you, Lord of all, trusting your promise of an easy yoke and a light burden.

(Moment of silence)

We call out for healing for the sick, relief for the suffering, justice for the oppressed, relief for the exhausted, hope for the downtrodden and comfort for those who mourn. As we wonder what will come next, as we struggle with countless uncertainties and mounting anxieties, we look to you, the blessed One who comes in the name of the Lord, for help, for assurance and for the peace that passes understanding.

As we draw close to you and attempt to follow, even to the cross, we rejoice in your near presence. We give thanks for your selfless sacrifice. We give thanks for the health care professionals, the grocery store workers, and the frontline responders. We remain grateful for all of those on the Way with us.

United in you, Lord Christ, we will stand together and stand up for those who have fallen by the wayside and walk with those who fear they have been forgotten. Strengthen us for the days ahead so that we will remain faithful to you, your will and your call, until we see you face to face.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray,

Lord's Prayer

**OUR FATHER,
WHO ART IN HEAVEN
HALLOWED BE THY NAME,
THY KINGDOM COME,
THY WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD,
AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS,
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SINNED AGAINST US.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL,
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,
AND THE POWER,
AND THE GLORY FOREVER.
AMEN.**

Offering

Give Online at:

<https://shpchurch.org/give>

Music by Nick Schacht:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjX4N_tsMdsU27qjsP6w3Lg

Blessing

Be watchful,
stand firm in your faith,
be courageous and strong.

Let all that you do be done in love.
May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.